

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising:

~~at least~~ a recording layer that changes ~~its~~ a state to be different and optically detectable, ~~the state of the recording layer being changed in response to irradiation from~~ by irradiating with a light beam[[,]];

an optical absorption layer composed of a material containing at least 50 at% silicon and no more than 95 at% silicon, ~~and;~~ and

a reflective layer composed of a material containing at least 95 at% silver and no more than 5 at% indium,

wherein the recording layer, the optical absorption layer and the reflective layer with these layers are provided in that order on a transparent substrate in the following order, starting from a location closest to the transparent substrate, first the recording layer, second the optical absorption layer and third the reflective layer.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising:

n-number of information layers, from a first information layer to an n-th information layer (where n is an integer of at least 2), provided on a transparent substrate, the n-th information layer comprising a recording layer that changes ~~its~~ a state to be different and optically detectable in response to irradiation from ~~by irradiating with~~ a light beam[[,]];

an optical absorption layer composed of a material containing at least 50 at% silicon and

no more than 95 at% silicon,~~and;~~ and

a reflective layer composed of a material containing at least 95 at% silver and no more than 5 at% indium,

wherein the n-number of information layers, the optical absorption layer, and the reflective layer are with these layers provided on a transparent substrate in the following order, starting in that order from the side a location closest to the transparent substrate, first the n-number of information layers, second the optical absorption layer, and third the reflective layer.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 13, wherein the reflective layer is in contact with the optical absorption layer.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 13, wherein the material of the optical absorption layer contains one of scandium, yttrium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum,~~or~~ and tungsten.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 13, further comprising a lower dielectric layer located between the transparent substrate and the recording layer.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 17, further comprising a lower interface layer located between the recording layer and the

lower dielectric layer.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 18, wherein the material of the lower interface layer contains two or more compounds selected from among compounds of the elements magnesium, calcium, yttrium, zirconium, hafnium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, zinc, aluminum, gallium, indium, and silicon.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 13, further comprising an upper dielectric layer located between the recording layer and the optical absorption layer.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim ~~18~~, 20, further comprising an upper interface layer located between the recording layer and the upper dielectric layer.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 21, wherein the material of the upper interface layer contains two or more compounds selected from among compounds of the elements magnesium, calcium, yttrium, zirconium, hafnium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, zinc, aluminum, gallium, indium, and silicon.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 14, wherein the reflective layer is in contact with the optical absorption layer.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 14, wherein the material of the optical absorption layer contains one of scandium, yttrium, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, ~~or~~ and tungsten.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 14, further comprising a lower dielectric layer located between the transparent substrate and the recording layer.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, further comprising a lower interface layer located between the recording layer and the lower dielectric layer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 26, wherein the material of the lower interface layer contains two or more compounds selected from among compounds of the elements magnesium, calcium, yttrium, zirconium, hafnium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, zinc, aluminum, gallium, indium, and silicon.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 14, further comprising an upper dielectric layer located between the recording layer and the optical absorption layer.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The optical information recording medium according to Claim ~~26~~, 28, further comprising an upper interface layer located between the recording layer and the upper dielectric layer.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 29, wherein the material of the upper interface layer contains two or more compounds selected from among compounds of the elements magnesium, calcium, yttrium, zirconium, hafnium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, tungsten, zinc, aluminum, gallium, indium, and silicon.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an optical information recording medium,

wherein the optical information recording medium includes: comprising at least
a recording layer that changes ~~its~~ a state to be different and optically detectable,
the state of the recording layer being changed in response to irradiation from ~~by irradiating with~~
a light beam[[,]];

an optical absorption layer composed of a material containing at least 50 at% silicon and no more than 95 at% silicon, ~~and,~~ and

a reflective layer composed of a material containing at least 95 at% silver and no more than 5 at% indium,

wherein the recording layer, the optical absorption layer and the reflective layer with these layers are provided in that order on a transparent substrate in the following order, starting from a location closest to the transparent substrate, first the recording layer, second the optical absorption layer and third the reflective layer, and

wherein the method of manufacturing includes holding a the pressure during the manufacture is held at 0.01 Pa or lower so that the optical absorption layer and the reflective layer are not exposed to the atmosphere while being continuously formed.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an optical information recording medium,

wherein the optical information recording medium includes: comprising

n-number of information layers, from a first information layer to an n-th information layer (where n is an integer of at least 2), provided on a transparent substrate, the n-th information layer comprising a recording layer that changes its a state to be different and optically detectable in response to irradiation from ~~by irradiating with~~ a light beam[[,]]:

an optical absorption layer composed of a material containing at least 50 at% silicon and no more than 95 at% silicon, ~~and;~~ and

a reflective layer composed of a material containing at least 95 at% silver and no more than 5 at% indium,

wherein the n-number of information layers, the optical absorption layer, and the

reflective layer are with these layers provided on a transparent substrate in the following order,
starting in that order from a location the side closest to the transparent substrate, first the n-
number of information layers, second the optical absorption layer, and third the reflective layer,
and

wherein the method of manufacturing includes holding a pressure during the manufacture-
is held at 0.01 Pa or lower so that the optical absorption layer and the reflective layer are not
exposed to the atmosphere while being continuously formed.

Claim 33 (New) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 13,
wherein the reflective layer includes indium.